

Amendments to the Specification:

Replace the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 with the following rewritten paragraphs:--

This objective is achieved by the invention with a pivotable binding system mounted between a sports device extending in a longitudinal direction and a tread surface of a sport shoe, which comprises a single binding element consisting of a lever, a first hinge mechanism joining one end of the binding lever to a front end of the tread surface, the first hinge mechanism including a first pivot axis extending substantially perpendicularly to a vertical plane extending in the longitudinal direction, and a body integral with or affixed to the sports device and rollingly supporting the front end of the tread surface for gliding on a rolling track of the body along an arcuately curved rolling path for displacing the front end of the tread surface towards the sports device. A second hinge mechanism joins an end of the binding lever opposite the one end to the body rollingly supporting the front end of the tread surface, the second hinge mechanism including a second, stationary pivot axis extending substantially perpendicularly to a vertical plane extending in the longitudinal direction. The first pivot axis is on a higher level than the second pivot axis, and is pivotable along the curved rolling path about the stationary pivot axis from an initial rest position to a

displaced position.

The particular advantage of this design is that relatively few and simple components imitate the natural rolling action of the foot across the bottom of the toes so that the performance of every user can be enhanced. Surprisingly, however, the enhanced performance which can be achieved by using the design proposed by the invention is not accompanied by any impairment to comfort. On the contrary, comfort is perceptibly increased due to the harmonious or rounded movement of the binding system. The combined or largely rigidly coupled motion of the user's foot in translation and rotation relative to the sports device during the active phase of the binding system. i.e. when assuming a specific pivot position, gives the user a feeling of stability and functional safety. As a result, he can concentrate on the respective performance and does not have to consciously concentrate his efforts on a perfect rolling motion since this is pre-programmed by the binding system to a certain degree. Furthermore, the binding system consists of a few individual components, which makes the design optimum in terms of weight whilst nevertheless enabling the advantageous rolling motion in translation and rotation. At the same time, any undesirable movement between the user's foot and the sports device, such as twisting about a vertical axis, can be reliably prevented, thereby producing a high resistance to force.

Because of the small number bearing points, friction losses between the linking parts of the binding system can be kept particularly low, so that the user's potential to perform can be largely converted into kinetic energy to propel the sports device along. Another important advantage resides in the fact that the sole of the sport shoe, for example a cross country shoe, can be made to a more bend-resistant design than similar conventional sport shoes because the harmonious or flowing movement needed for an optimum forward propulsion can be produced by the binding device. The natural forward rolling motion across the heels when walking or running is simulated by the binding system proposed by the invention, thereby enhancing comfort when using the sports device. Because the sport shoe can be made relatively more resistant to bending, the driving energy applied by the user can be more effectively converted into forward driving energy, thereby simultaneously enhancing performance without, as one might expect, impairing comfort.--

Page 5, replace the paragraph in lines 16 and 17 with the following paragraph:--

Also of advantage is another embodiment ~~described in claim~~  
53 further comprising an energy storage device, such as a coil spring, connected to at least one of the hinge mechanisms and biased against an upward pivoting movement of a heel end of the

tread surface relative to the sports device since it always forces the sports device into a defined initial or rest position relative to the sport shoe.--

Replace the paragraph bridging pages 21 and 22 with the following rewritten paragraph:--

The binding system has at least one ~~the~~ binding element 11 in the form of lever 67 between the tread surface 5 for the user's foot and the sports device 2, which is the only element binding sport shoe to the sports device. The lever 67 is hinge-mounted on an end 18 of a body 22 affixed to sports device 2, on which a forward end of sports shoe 7 rolls. In the end 17 spaced at a distance therefrom in the longitudinal region - double arrow 9 - the lever 67 is joined to a rolling element 69 in shoe sole 6 via hinge mechanism 45, i.e. it is hinge-mounted on the shoe sole 6. The rolling element 69 forming one link 70 of the hinge mechanism 45 can be releasably or non-releasably secured to the underside of the shoe sole 6 or alternatively may be integrated in the shoe sole 6, i.e. embedded therein.

Replace the paragraph bridging pages 22 and 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:--

The lever 67 is designed so that the pivot axis 46 between

the lever 67 and the shoe sole 6 is disposed at a higher lever than the stationary pivot axis between the lever 67 and the body 22 when in the rest or initial position illustrated in full lines in Fig. 7 1 and 8 2. As a result, when the sport shoe 7 pivots relative to the sports device 2 about the pivot axis 71, the shoe sole 6 is displaced in the direction in which the sports device 2 is moving or travelling - arrow 9 (see phantom lines in Fig. 7 1). This causes a lengthening of the stride. This effect is produced due to the fact that the pivot axis 46 moves on a circular course 75 about the stationary pivot axis 71 and because the pivot axis 46 between the sport shoe 7 and the lever 67 is disposed at a higher level than the pivot axis 71. In particular, in the initial or rest position illustrated in full lines in Figs. 7 1 and 8 2, the pivot axis 46 is located in the top half of the circular course 75 around the pivot axis 71 and, when the heel of the sport shoe 7 is lifted off the sports device 2, moves on the circular course 75 in the direction towards the top face 15 and simultaneously in the longitudinal direction of direction of forward movement - arrow 9. --